

***APPROVED MINUTES*** of the Regular  
Meeting of the City Council of the City of Rye  
held in City Hall on November 29, 2017, at 7:30  
P.M.

PRESENT:

JOSEPH A. SACK Mayor  
KIRSTIN BUCCI  
EMILY HURD  
JULIE KILLIAN  
TERRENCE McCARTNEY  
RICHARD MECCA  
DANIELLE TAGGER-EPSTEIN  
Councilmembers

ABSENT:

None

The Council convened at 6:30 P.M. Councilman McCartney made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Bucci and unanimously carried to immediately adjourn into Executive Session to discuss litigation and personnel matters. Councilman McCartney made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Bucci and unanimously carried, to adjourn the Executive Session at 7:29 P.M. The regular meeting convened at 7:30 P.M.

1. Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Sack called the meeting to order and invited the Council to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call.

Mayor Sack asked the City Clerk to call the roll; a quorum was present to conduct official City business.

3. General Announcements.

Mayor Sack announced that Dock Deli is closing. He wished them the best of luck and thanked them for being a tremendous part of the Rye community.

Councilman Mecca announced that Sunday was a successful Mistletoe Magic event, with a record number of people.

Councilman McCartney announced that the work at the Rye Golf Club is almost complete, and with the warm weather, the greens remain open. The end of the year event at Rye Golf Club will be Thursday, December 7, 2017. Councilman McCartney also

announced that the Turkey Run was a huge success, with over 1200 participants. He reminded everyone that Sunday, December 3, 2017 is the holiday bonfire at Recreation Field.

Councilwoman Hurd announced that the deadline to remove boats from the Boat Basin is this Friday, December 1, 2017.

Councilwoman Tagger-Epstein announced that the Thanksgiving Interfaith Event was a success. She also said that the Jay Heritage landscaping event was also a success and can be viewed on RyeTV. She updated the community about the Branching Out for Rye Tree Fund, and invited everyone to follow along on the Sustainability Committee website. The website also features City staff and the recent tree plantings throughout the City. Councilwoman Tagger-Epstein also announced that the Rye Youth Council will be holding an event at the Wainwright House at 9:30 A.M. on December 1, 2017 on the topic of Understanding Gender: Raising Open Accepting and Diverse Children. She encouraged all to attend.

Councilwoman Killian encouraged all to participate the Cable Committee's survey, as they move toward cable franchise negotiations.

4. Draft unapproved minutes of the regular meeting of the City Council held November 8, 2017 and the Budget Workshop held November 13, 2017.

Councilman Mecca made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Hurd, to adopt the minutes of the regular meeting of the City Council held November 8, 2017 and the Budget Workshop held November 13, 2017.

5. Issues Update/Old Business.

Councilman Mecca announced that the Planning Commission held hearings on a proposal from Con Ed to install a compressed natural gas site. The site was approved with a one year timeline and will need to be revisited next year. Councilman Mecca thanked City Planner Miller and Corporation Council Wilson for studying the issue.

6. Discussion of the FY 2018 Budget.

- *Rye Free Reading Room Budget Review*

Chris Shoemaker, Rye Free Reading Room, addressed the Council. He provided a summary of the library from 2016 and 2017. He said that for every dollar that is provided, there was a return of over \$4 in value from the library services. Mr. Shoemaker said that the Rye Free Reading Room was second in the County for attendance of library programs. He said that he was grateful to the City for meeting the funding requests for this upcoming budget.

Councilmembers thanked Mr. Shoemaker for a job well done on the library programs.

Mayor Sack said that the Council will be looking at all items to cut costs for the budget vote, but thanked Mr. Shoemaker for his hard work with the programs for the community.

- *Rye TV Budget Review*

Nicole Levitsky, Rye Cable TV Coordinator, introduced Mary Ellen Doran, Steven Fairchild and Ken Knowles from the Cable Committee. Ms. Doran presented a slideshow to the Council, highlighting the Cable TV programs. She said that in 2017, RyeTV has experienced tremendous growth due to the social media outreach campaign.

Ms. Levitsky discussed the impending renewals of the cable contracts and franchise negotiations. The negotiations will determine the PEG grant money received from the City for the next contract period. She stated that the last major equipment renewal was in 2008. Ms. Levitsky explained that camera equipment typically can last 7 to 9 years. She spoke in detail about equipment specifics and stated that the request was to replace the cameras that are ten years old as well as other equipment.

There was a lengthy discussion about critical and non-critical equipment items to determine the budget expenditures.

- *Police Department Budget Review*

Commissioner Corcoran and Police Department Accountant, Tom Scapaticci, thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak. Commissioner Corcoran also thanked the Rye Police Department for their hard work and dedication to the Rye community. He reported that 2017 was a great year, with the City of Rye being named the second safest City in New York State, and first safest city in Westchester County. He then provided an overview of the successes for the year, such as combating the drug epidemic. For 2018, he would like to see the Village Officer position filled, which he said would provide a safe presence within the downtown area. There was general discussion over positions at the department.

- *Fire Department Budget Review*

Commissioner Corcoran provided a summary of the Fire Department's previous year to the Council. He was happy to report that the PESH violations are almost fully resolved. He said that there has been a lot of training for both departments to be better equipped to handle emergency situations. He discussed volunteer recruitment and programs.

There was discussion about staffing, in which Mayor Sack confirmed that the staff went from 18 to 21 in 2017. City Comptroller Fazzino stated that the total Fire Department budget was \$575,000.

Councilman Mecca discussed the City's possible improvement to ISO rating, which would result in insurance savings.

- *Boat Basin Budget Review*

George Hogben, Boat Basin Supervisor, gave an overview of the Boat Basin, which is set up as an enterprise fund, with over 400 boats. He discussed items such as dredging and compliance with different agencies.

There was general discussion about dredging for the coming years with regard to strategy and financial planning for that endeavor.

- *Recreation Department Budget Review*

Sally Rogol, Recreation Superintendent and Erin Mantz, Assistant Superintendent, thanked the Council for their support and the opportunity to present. Superintendent Rogol thanked Councilman McCartney for his role as liaison to the Recreation Commission. She gave an overview of the successes of the year, such as the Turkey Run, Halloween Window Painting, Pancakes with Santa, Holiday Bonfire, Food Truck Festival, summer camp, winter vacation activities, and other programs.

Mayor Sack thanked the Recreation Department for their hard work and successful programs for the residents. He said that in general, there was hope to get closer to a tax-cap compliant budget. However, he highlighted the benefit of tax dollars with regard to recreation activities for the community.

- *Discussion of a Tax Cap Compliant Budget*

City Comptroller Fazzino provided an overview of the proposed tax-compliant alternative budget to help the Council understand what that budget would look like. He discussed a projected increase to building permit revenues and an assistant building inspector position. There was also discussion over revenues gained from the new development at 120 Old Post Road.

There was discussion over various ways to reduce the budget, such as projecting lower litigations costs, increasing building department revenues and fees, reducing capital projects, increasing traffic enforcement revenues, and other items.

7. Residents may be heard on matters for Council consideration that do not appear on the agenda.

There was nothing discussed under this agenda item.

8. Consideration of the proposed revisions and addition to the Rules and Regulations of the City of Rye Police Department:

- General Order #102.5 regarding the format and definitions for written orders and bulletins
- General Order #105.4 regarding an Exposure Control Plan

- General Order #106.1 regarding Motor Vehicle Accident Investigation and Report procedures
- General Order #106.2 regarding policy and procedure for investigating accidents involving fatality or serious injury
- General Order #111.2 regarding the towing or impound of motor vehicles within the City of Rye
- General Order #113.13 regarding notification to the next of kin for deceased or seriously injured persons
- General Order #117.5 regarding City of Rye Police Department vehicle equipment
- General Order #119.7 establishing policy and procedure for officers assigned to the Adopt a School Program.

City Manager Serrano stated that Commissioner Corcoran was in the process of documenting policies and procedures for the department to ensure uniformity and safety in protocol.

Councilwoman Tagger Epstein made a motion, seconded by Councilman Mecca, to adopt the proposed revisions and addition to the Rules and Regulations of the City of Rye Police Department.

**ROLL CALL**

AYES: Mayor Sack, Councilmembers Bucci, Hurd, Killian, McCartney, Mecca and Tagger-Epstein  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: None

9. Resolution to transfer \$20,000 from the Cable TV Unassigned Fund balance to the Cable TV Operating Budget for Best Best & Krieger LLP to represent the City in cable franchise agreement negotiations.  
Roll Call.

City Manager Serrano explained that this budget transfer would allow the City's retained outside counsel to continue to negotiate the impending cable franchise agreements on the City's behalf.

Councilwoman Killian made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Hurd, to approve the transfer of \$20,000 from the Cable TV Unassigned Fund balance to the Cable TV Operating Budget for Best Best & Krieger LLP to represent the City in cable franchise agreement negotiations.

**ROLL CALL**

AYES: Mayor Sack, Councilmembers Bucci, Hurd, Killian, McCartney, Mecca and Tagger-Epstein  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: None

10. Miscellaneous communications and reports.

There was nothing discussed under this agenda item.

11. New Business.

There was nothing discussed under this agenda item.

12. Adjournment.

There being no further business to discuss, Councilman Mecca made a motion, seconded by Councilman McCartney, to adjourn the regular meeting of the City Council at 10:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn D'Andrea  
City Clerk